THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Diversion of forest land

2097. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has been requesting the Central Government for diverting forest land in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to non-release of forest land, the State has been put in a precarious situation to dispose of hazardous waste; and

(d) if so, the alternative measures taken to grant approval to the State Government to dispose of hazardous wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Central Government receives request from Government of Karnataka for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for development projects like power, transmission lines, roads, railways, irrigation, mining, drinking water etc., from time to time. A total of 530 such projects involving about 37,890 hectare of forest land have been approved by the Central Government under the Act.

(c) No, Sir, Central Government has already approved a proposal in October, 2002, for diversion of 50 hectare of forest land for disposal of hazardous wastes in favour of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board in Kolar District, Karnataka. No other proposal from the State Government has been received for diversion of forest land for disposal of hazardous wastes by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Hurdles in achieving target for forest cover

2098. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI G.K. VASAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: